



# Montana Teen Driver Safety Day

Third Tuesday in October - MCA 1-1-229

## Five Ways Your Organization Can Promote Teen Driver Safety

### 1. Post information and links on your webpage

Seat Belt and cell phone use among Montana Teens (page 2)

<http://buckleup.mt.gov/teens>

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers>

[http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Teen\\_Drivers/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Teen_Drivers/index.html)

<http://plan2live.mt.gov/>

### 2. Post to & Share Facebook pages

Examples: “Did you know...” or “Drive Safe this Teen Driver Safety Week”

Facebook pages to like and share:

<https://www.facebook.com/cdcparentsarethekey>

<https://www.facebook.com/ridelikeafriend>

<http://www.facebook.com/MontanansForSeatBelts>

### 3. Place safety messages on your business’s Reader Board

- *Buckle up. Every trip, every time.*
- *Seat Belts Save Lives*
- *We Care...Please Wear Your Seat Belt.*
- *Drive focused...shut off your phone.*
- *Wear your seat belt. It’s the law.*
- *Teen Drivers are our future. Drive sober and always wear a seat belt.*
- *Be a good role model. Teen Drivers are Watching.*
- *Stop the texts – Stop the wrecks*

### 4. Include information in your agency’s newsletter

Fact Sheet: CDC 8 Danger Zones for Teens Behind the Wheel (page 3)

Fact Sheet: 10 Things People Don’t Know About Teen Driving (page 5)

Fact Sheet: Montana Seat Belt Law (page 6)

### 5. Be a good role model

Encourage staff and co-workers to always practice safe driving behaviors.

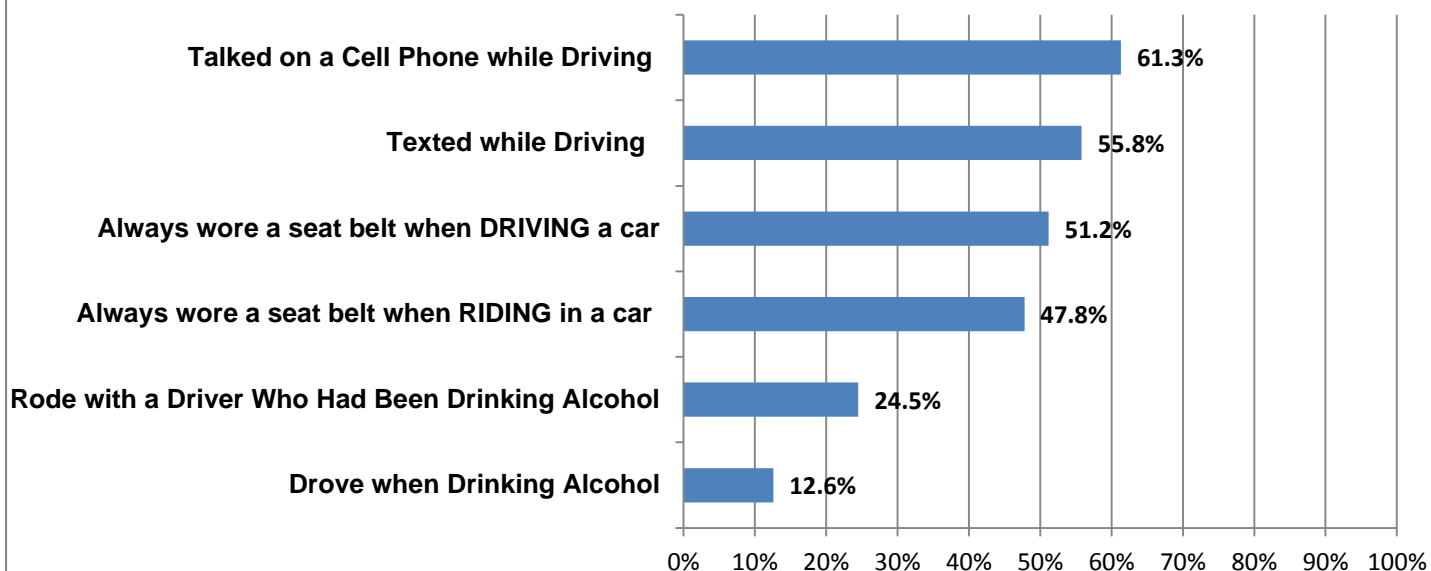
Teens are watching us. Always wear a seat belt, be alert and pay attention while driving.

# 2013 Miles to Go: Montana Teen Driver Facts

## 2013 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Source: [www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS](http://www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS)

The percentage of Montana high school students who during the past 30 days:



## Montana Teen Driver Facts

- **UNINTENTIONAL INJURY DEATHS:** Motor vehicle crashes remain the highest cause of death for teens aged 15-19. In a ten-year period from 2001 to 2010, 218 were occupants in a motor vehicle crash. Another 40 were motorcyclists, pedestrians, bicyclists, or other persons injured in traffic.<sup>3</sup>
- **SPEEDING:** Speeding-related teen fatalities decreased 18.2% from 11 in 2010 to 9 in 2011.<sup>1</sup>
- **ALCOHOL USE:** Alcohol-related fatalities involving teen drivers (aged 15-19) went down 54.5%, from 11 in 2010 to 5 in 2011.<sup>1</sup>
- **SEAT BELT USE:** In 2011, 14 of the 22 teens who died in a crash were not wearing a seat belt.<sup>1</sup> Teens (aged 14-18) who were involved in a motor vehicle crash and sustained severe injuries; 71% were not wearing a seatbelt.<sup>2</sup>
- **DISTRACTIONS:** Nationally, 11% of all teen motor vehicle crash fatalities in 2010 involved distracted driving. Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

### Sources:

1. Montana Department of Transportation Crash Data ([www.mdt.mt.gov](http://www.mdt.mt.gov))
2. State Trauma registry system, 2008, MT Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
3. Montana Office of Vital Statistics via DPHHS



Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)



## 8 DANGER ZONES FOR TEENS BEHIND THE WHEEL

Getting a driver's license is an exciting time for a teen. But driving is especially dangerous for young, new drivers. In fact, 11 teens die each day as the result of a car crash. As a parent, you can help keep your teen safe on the road. Make sure your teen is aware of the leading causes of teen crashes and how to avoid them.

- **No. 1: Driver inexperience:** Crash rates are highest during the first year a teen has a license. Provide as much supervised driving practice as possible—at least 30 to 50 hours over a period of no less than six months. This will help your teen gain the skill he or she needs. Even when your teen has a full license, it is a good idea to limit his or her driving during risky conditions. These include driving at night, in bad weather, on highways, and with teen passengers. Allow more driving privileges as your teen gains experience and skill.
- **No. 2: Driving with teen passengers:** Crash risk goes up when teens drive with other teens in the car. Nearly 2 out of 3 teen crash deaths that involve 16-year-old drivers happen when a new driver has one or more teen passengers. Follow your state's GDL laws for passenger restrictions. If your state does not have a teen passenger rule, limit the number of teens your child may drive to zero or one. Keep this rule for at least the first 6 months of his or her license.
- **No. 3: Nighttime driving:** Nighttime fatal crash rates for 16-year-olds are nearly twice as high as daytime rates. Nighttime driving is risky because it is harder to see at night and people are often tired. Be sure your teen is off the road by 9 or 10 PM. Stick by this rule for at least the first 6 months of your teen having his or her license.

- Continued -

VISIT [WWW.CDC.GOV/PARENTSARETHEKEY](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/PARENTSARETHEKEY) TO GET GOING.

- **No. 4: Not using seat belts:** In 2007, 6 out of 10 teen drivers and 2 out of 3 teen passengers who died in car crashes were not wearing seat belts. The simplest way to prevent motor vehicle crash deaths is to buckle up. Wearing a seat belt will cut your teen's risk of dying or being badly injured in a crash by about half. Remind your teen to wear a seat belt on every trip—even just for a drive around the corner.
- **No. 5: Distracted driving:** Nearly 8 out of 10 crashes happen within 3 seconds of a driver becoming distracted. Common distractions for teen drivers are talking on cell phones, using in-car electronic devices, text messaging, eating, playing with CDs or the radio, and yelling out the window. Forbid all activities that could affect your teen's driving attention.
- **No. 6: Drowsy driving:** Young drivers are at highest risk for drowsy driving, which causes thousands of crashes every year. Other than late at night, teens are most tired and at risk when driving between 6 and 8 in the morning. Be sure your teen is fully rested before he or she gets behind the wheel.
- **No. 7: Reckless driving:** Research shows that teens lack the judgment and maturity to assess risky situations. Help your teen to avoid the following unsafe behaviors.
  - **Speeding:** Make sure your teen knows to follow the speed limit and adjust speed to road conditions.
  - **Tailgating:** Remind your teen to maintain enough space behind the vehicle ahead to avoid a crash if a sudden stop is needed.
  - **Insufficient scanning:** Stress the importance of always knowing the location of other vehicles on the road. Scan ahead before making left turns; to the side when yielding the right of way at intersections; and behind when changing lanes.
- **No. 8: Impaired driving:** Of all drivers between 15 and 20 years of age involved in fatal crashes in 2007, nearly 1 out of 3 had been drinking. In the United States, it is illegal for anyone under age 21 to drink alcohol. All states have zero tolerance laws that ban underage drinking and driving. Most states will suspend or cancel the license of a teen who violates these laws. Strictly enforce zero tolerance laws at home, whether or not your teen driver is caught by law enforcement.



# *share the drive:* Parents Matter

## 10 THINGS PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT TEEN DRIVING

Everyone knows drinking and driving is a primary cause of teen crashes and teen deaths.\*

But many people don't know:

1. **Sixteen-year-olds** are three times more likely to die in a car crash than other drivers.
2. Simple **driver error** is a factor in two-thirds of fatal teen crashes.
3. Two-thirds of teen occupants killed in crashes are not wearing **seat belts**
4. In 2005, 12 percent of high school males reported **driving after drinking**.
5. Two or more teen passengers make fatal teen **crash risk** five times more likely.
6. Two-thirds of teens who die in car crashes are **passengers** of teen drivers.
7. **Speeding** is a factor in 40 percent of all teen driver fatalities.
8. Being **awake** for 18 hours equals a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of 0.08, which is legally drunk.
9. Inexperience combined with **distractions** is lethal.
10. The distractions proven to kill teens: **teen passengers and cell phones**.

Learn more about teen driver safety at [www.chop.edu/youngdrivers](http://www.chop.edu/youngdrivers).

*\*Due to enforced laws and effective awareness efforts, the U.S. has had a considerable decline in drunk driving-related crash fatalities.  
Continued effort is required to keep these numbers low and to achieve further reductions.*

[www.chop.edu/youngdrivers](http://www.chop.edu/youngdrivers)

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# Why buckle up? So, we can see you again.



## It's a law we can live with.

The **Montana Seatbelt Use Act** requires the use of seatbelts by the driver and each occupant of each vehicle. State law also requires child safety restraint systems for children under the age of 6 and weighing less than 60 pounds.

Montana law places the responsibility on the driver to ensure **each occupant** is properly buckled or in a child safety seat (MCA 61-13-103). In the event of a crash, an unbuckled occupant can seriously injure or kill other occupants in the vehicle

Montana high school students report **always wearing a seatbelt about half of the time while driving a vehicle** and **less than half of the time while riding as a passenger in a vehicle** according to the Montana Youth Risk Behavioral Survey.

Of teens aged 14-18 who were involved in a motor vehicle crash and sustained severe injuries, **71%** were not wearing a seatbelt. Those who died might be alive today if only they had been wearing their seat belts.

Seatbelts and air bags are meant to work together to keep drivers and passengers safe. The presence of air bags in a vehicle does NOT mean seatbelts are unnecessary.

Whether a person is belted or not often becomes the difference between life and death. While researchers may differ by a few percentage points either way, figures from seatbelt studies reveal:

- Seatbelts can reduce the number of serious injuries by 50 percent.
- Seatbelts can reduce fatalities by 40 to 60 percent.

Information courtesy of Montana Department of Justice: <https://doj.mt.gov/driving/driving-safety/>

**You care about your family and your friends. *They care about you.***

**Make it a habit, on short trips and long trips.**

**Buckle Up every time, every trip, everybody.**

<http://www.buckleup.mt.gov>